



# UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

ml

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE  
United States Patent and Trademark Office  
Address: COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450  
www.uspto.gov

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
-----------------	-------------	----------------------	---------------------	------------------

10/785,052

02/25/2004

Akira Kojima

NITT.0200

8596

7590

04/09/2007

Stanley P. Fisher  
Reed Smith LLP  
3110 Fairview Park Drive, Suite 1400  
Falls Church, VA 22042-4503

EXAMINER

KHAN, USMAN A

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

2622

SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD OF RESPONSE	MAIL DATE	DELIVERY MODE
--	-----------	---------------

3 MONTHS

04/09/2007

PAPER

**Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.**

If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire 6 MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.

## Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/785,052

Applicant(s)

KOJIMA ET AL.

Examiner

Usman Khan

Art Unit

2622

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

### Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

### Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 25 February 2004.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

### Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-11 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1,3,4 and 6-9 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☒ Claim(s) 2,5,10 and 11 is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

### Application Papers

- 9) ☒ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 25 February 2004 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
- Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

### Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some \* c) ☐ None of:
1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

\* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

### Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)  
Paper No(s)/Mail Date 02/25/2004.
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)  
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. \_\_\_\_\_.
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
- 6) ☐ Other: \_\_\_\_\_.

## **DETAILED ACTION**

### ***Specification***

The title of the invention is not descriptive. A new title is required that is clearly indicative of the invention to which the claims are directed.

### ***Priority***

Receipt is acknowledged of papers submitted under 35 U.S.C. 119(a)-(d), which papers have been placed of record in the file.

### ***Information Disclosure Statement***

The information disclosure statement (IDS) submitted on 02/25/2004 has been considered by the examiner. The submission is in compliance with the provisions of 37 CFR 1.97.

### ***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102***

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(e) the invention was described in (1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent or (2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effects for purposes of this subsection of an application filed in the United States only if the international application designated the United States and was published under Article 21(2) of such treaty in the English language.

Art Unit: 2622

Claim 6 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Yokoyama (US patent No 6,573,939).

Regarding 6, Yokoyama teaches a video camera (figures 2a – 2d; also column 1 lines 8 *et seq.*) comprising: a camera body unit (figure 2a – 2d item 2) containing an image pickup unit (figure 2b lens assembly item 4 leading to image sensing device item 5; also column 3 line 63 – column 4 line 25) and a circuit board of various circuits (figure 2b imaging unit circuit board 6; also column 3 line 63 – column 4 line 25); a rotary grip provided on one side face of the camera body unit (figures 2a – 2d item 3 with grip 14; also column 3 lines 32 - 62) so as to be rotatable relative to the camera body unit (figures 2a – 2d also figures 7a – 7b); a liquid crystal display monitor disposed integrally on a peripheral surface of the rotary grip (figures 2d and 3 item 18); and an operating unit disposed integrally on the peripheral surface of the rotary grip (figures 2d and 3 items 16 - 17).

### ***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103***

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

Claim 1 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Lavine et al. (US patent No. 5,946,512) in further view of Miyake et al. (US patent No. 6,683,653).

Art Unit: 2622

Regarding **claim 1**, Lavine et al. teaches a video camera (figures 1 - 3) comprising: a camera body unit having at least an image pickup unit (column 1 lines 46 – 53 and column 2 lines 7 – 16, lens barrel leading to the image forming portion); a grip unit (figures 1 – 3, items 54 and 60; also column 2 lines 29 – 42) having at least a disc drive mechanism (figures 1 – 3, item 18; also column 1 line 58 – column 2 line 6); and a rotary mechanism which connects the grip unit rotatably to one side face of the camera body unit (figures 1 item 50; also column 2 lines 29 – 42), wherein the rotary mechanism connects the grip unit to the camera body unit in such a manner that a diametrical direction of the grip unit is parallel to an optical axis of a camera lens (figures 1 item 50; also column 2 lines 29 – 42), and the disc drive mechanism has a medium receptacle portion (figures 1 – 3, item 18; also column 1 line 58 – column 2 line 6);

However, Lavine et al. fails to disclose a medium receptacle portion provided in parallel with a circuit board. Miyake et al., on the other hand discloses a medium portion provided in parallel with a circuit board.

More specifically, Miyake et al. discloses a medium portion provided in parallel with a circuit board (figure 3 items 36 and 82; also, column 8 lines 4 – 54).

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to incorporate the teachings of Miyake et al. with the teachings of Lavine et al. because in column 8, lines 39 – 48 Miyake et al teaches that The smart medium holder 36 and the electronic circuit board 82 are arranged behind and parallel to the LCD monitor 50. Thus, the components (the optical unit 80, the

Art Unit: 2622

electronic flash 20, the battery 78, the LCD monitor 50 and the electronic circuit board 82) can be arranged compactly and efficiently in the substantially rectangular-parallelepipedic casing 12. This minimizes the connections between the components, and thus makes the camera more compact.

Claims 3 and 4 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Lavine et al. (US patent No. 5,946,512) in further view of Miyake et al. (US patent No. 6,683,653) in further view of Examiners Official Notice.

Regarding 3, as mentioned above in the discussion of claim 1 Lavine et al. in further view of Miyake et al. teach all of the limitations of the parent claim. Additionally, Lavine et al. teaches a liquid crystal display monitor unit is provided on an opposite side face of the camera body unit in parallel with the optical axis of the camera lens (figure 3 item 46; also column 2 lines 17 - 27).

However, Lavine et al. in further view of Miyake et al. fail to teach that the liquid crystal display monitor unit is disposed rotatably through an axis vertical to the optical axis of the camera lens.

The examiner takes Official Notice that it is old and well known in the art to have a liquid crystal display monitor unit disposed rotatably through an axis vertical to the optical axis of the camera lens.

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to use the liquid crystal display monitor unit disposed

Art Unit: 2622

rotatably through an axis vertical to the optical axis of the camera lens for ease of view of the liquid crystal display monitor at particular angles.

Regarding 4, as mentioned above in the discussion of claim 3 Lavine et al. in further view of Miyake et al. in further view of Examiners Official Notice teach all of the limitations of the parent claim. Additionally, Miyake et al. teaches that the grip unit (figures 1 item 18) is provided on a peripheral surface thereof with a liquid crystal display monitor (figures 1 item 50), the liquid crystal display monitor being adapted to move with rotation of the grip unit (when the grip unit is rotated the liquid crystal display monitor will be rotated along with the camera body).

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to use the display of Miyake et al. because in column 8, lines 39 – 48 Miyake et al. teaches that The smart medium holder 36 and the electronic circuit board 82 are arranged behind and parallel to the LCD monitor 50. Thus, the components (the optical unit 80, the electronic flash 20, the battery 78, the LCD monitor 50 and the electronic circuit board 82) can be arranged compactly and efficiently in the substantially rectangular-parallelepipedic casing 12. This minimizes the connections between the components, and thus makes the camera more compact. Also, the use of a LCD mounted on the camera body will save space.

Claim 7 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Yokoyama (US patent No 6,573,939) in further view of Examiners Official Notice.

Regarding 7, as mentioned above in the discussion of claim 6 Yokoyama teaches all of the limitations of the parent claim:

However, Yokoyama fails to teach that the rotary grip contains a disc drive.

The examiner takes Official Notice that it is old and well known in the art to have a disc drive in a camera for storing images.

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to use a disc drive such as a DVD or CD for larger data storage in the camera in addition to the mediums disclosed in column 5 lines 6 – 14 of Yokoyama.

Claim 8 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Yokoyama (US patent No 6,573,939) in further view of Tsuchida (US patent No 6,972,925).

Regarding 8, as mentioned above in the discussion of claim 6 Yokoyama teaches all of the limitations of the parent claim.

However, Yokoyama fails to disclose wherein a power supply is turned on and off by rotation in a predetermined angular range of the rotary grip. Tsuchida, on the other hand discloses that it is well known to have a power supply is turned on and off by rotation in a predetermined angular range of the rotary grip.

More specifically, Tsuchida discloses it is well known to have a power supply is turned on and off by rotation in a predetermined angular range of the rotary grip (column 1 lines 40 – 45 and column 2 lines 10 – 16).

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to incorporate the teachings of Tsuchida with the teachings of Yokoyama because in column 2 lines 34 - 39 Tsuchida teaches that the camera body unit size is miniaturized.

Claim 9 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Yokoyama (US patent No 6,573,939) in further view of Examiners Official Notice.

Regarding 9, as mentioned above in the discussion of claim 6 Yokoyama teaches all of the limitations of the parent claim.

However, Yokoyama fails to teach a liquid crystal display monitor unit is provided on an opposite side face of the camera body unit so as to be rotatable in a predetermined angular range from said side face around a vertical shaft parallel to said side face.

The examiner takes Official Notice that it is old and well known in the art to have a liquid crystal display monitor unit is provided on an opposite side face of the camera body unit so as to be rotatable in a predetermined angular range from said side face around a vertical shaft parallel to said side face.

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to use a liquid crystal display monitor unit is provided on an opposite side face of the camera body unit so as to be rotatable in a predetermined angular range from said side face around a vertical shaft parallel to said side face for ease of view of the liquid crystal display monitor unit if the camera is at an angle.

***Allowable Subject Matter***

**Claims 2, 5, 10, and 11** are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

The following is a statement of reasons for the indication of allowable subject matter for **claim 2**: A video camera according to claim 1, wherein the grip unit comprises a medium insertion aperture for insertion of a recording medium into the medium receptacle portion and a case unit adapted to expose and shield the medium insertion aperture, the case unit being adapted to slide in a direction parallel to the rotary mechanism is not discussed or suggested in any of the prior art that was searched.

The following is a statement of reasons for the indication of allowable subject matter for **claim 5**: A video camera according to claim 4, wherein the grip unit is provided on the peripheral surface thereof with an operating unit, the operating unit being constructed such that, in an open condition of the liquid crystal display monitor unit, an operating function for the liquid crystal display monitor unit is set, while in a closed condition of the liquid crystal display monitor unit, an operating function for the liquid crystal display monitor is set is not discussed or suggested in any of the prior art that was searched.

The following is a statement of reasons for the indication of allowable subject matter for **claim 10**: A video camera according to claim 9, wherein, in an abutted state

Art Unit: 2622

of the liquid crystal display monitor unit against the side face of the camera body unit, a screen display is provided by the liquid crystal display monitor, while in a rotated state of the liquid crystal display monitor unit from its position on the side face of the camera body unit, a screen display is provided by the liquid crystal display monitor unit is not discussed or suggested in any of the prior art that was searched.

The following is a statement of reasons for the indication of allowable subject matter for **claim 11**: Claim 11 is dependent from objected claim 10 and will be allowable if claim 10 including all of the limitations of the base claim 10 and any intervening claims is written in an independent form.

### ***Conclusion***

The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

Lavine et al. (US patent No. 6,942,400) teaches a rotating grip with a memory receptacle portion.

Shiozaki (US patent No. 6,215,524) teaches a camera with rotatable assemble with a grip.

Fukuda et al. (US patent No. 4,959,729) teaches a camera with rotatable assemble with a grip.

Ota (US patent No. 6,643,459) teaches a camera with rotatable assemble with a grip.

Takagi et al. (US patent No. 5,442,453) teaches a camera with rotatable assemble with a grip.

Ichiyoshi (US patent No. 5,548,334) teaches a camera with rotatable assemble with a grip.

Tsukahara et al. (US patent No. 6,295,088) teaches a camera with rotatable assemble with a grip.

Kawarai et al. (US patent No. 5,303,062) teaches a camera with rotatable assemble with a grip.

Takagi et al. (US patent No. 6,226,448) teaches a camera with rotatable assemble with a grip.

Ichiyoshi et al. (US patent No. 4,963,987) teaches a camera with rotatable assemble with a grip.

Kim (US patent No. 5,949,504) teaches a camera with rotatable assemble with a grip.

Fujinawa (US PgPub 2006/0050151) teaches a fixed display and a separate rotatable display.

Oh (US PgPub 2006/0210263) teaches a fixed display and a separate rotatable display.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Usman Khan whose telephone number is (571) 270-1131. The examiner can normally be reached on Mon-Thru 6:45-4:15; Fri 6:45-3:15 or Alt. Fri off.

Art Unit: 2622

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, David Ometz can be reached on (571) 272-7593. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.



Usman Khan  
03/28/2007  
Patent Examiner  
Art Unit 2622



DAVID OMETZ  
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER